(c) whether Government have received any representation for the cancellation of fare hike; and

(d) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This was done in accordance with resolution adopted at the IATA forum, and also in response to the situation arising from introduction of the scheme of partial convertibility of the Rupee.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The revision in air fares was necessary due to the factors mentioned above.

Disinvestment of India Tourism Development Corporation Properties

454. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether ITDC is in the process of disinvesting some of their prime properties by placing them in joint sector to improve tourism in the country; and

(b) whether such proposal has been accepted by Government and if so, when it will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The Government have formulated a scheme wherein small groups of ITDC hotels would be formed for the purpose of developing them as joint ventures with reputed foreign hotel chains. The proposal for setting up such joint ventures has been approved in principle by the Government for early implementation.

Development of Renigunta Airport in Andhra Pradesh

455. SHRI MOHD. KHALEELUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to develop the airport at Renigunta in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Airports Authority has plans to take up the following works subject to availability of resources, at Renigunta Airport (Tirupati Airport):—

(i) Expansion and strengthening of runway to 7500 ft.

(ii) Strengthening of taxi-track.

(iii) Widening and strengthening of apron.

(iv) Construction of new terminal building.

(c) Does not arise.

Choking of Anna Airport

456. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in *Hindu* dated 13-6-1992 under the caption "Anna airport getting choked";

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to increase the facilities at the immigration counters and at the baggage clearance permits; and

(c) what are the long term plans to meet the increase in foreign airlines flights in Anna International Airport at Madras?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Steps have been taken to increase the number of immigration counters from 10 to 14 and to increase the length of conveyors to provide for additional baggage claim length.

(c) Long term plans include construction of an additional parking bay, increase in the capacity of security hold area and construction of the second phase of International terminal.

Air services from Rajkot to Delhi

457. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 636 give in the Rajya Sabha on 5th May, 1992 and state:

(a) whether Government are aware about the difficulties experienced by the people living in Rajkot due to non-availability of air services from Rajkot to Delhi;

(b) whether Government have re-examined the matter and propose to re-start air services from Rajkot to Delhi *via* Ahmedabad and Udaipur; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard and by when the Air services are likely to be restarted?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Indian Airlines is aware of the requirements of Rajkot passengers.

(b) The matter has been re-examined by Indian Airlines. Presently there is no proposal to introduce Indian Airlines service between Rajkot and Delhi. There is a daily service on the Bombay-Rajkot-Bombay route which provides convenient connections to and from Delhi.

(c) Does not arise.

Hijacking of a Plane by an Air India Pilot

458. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the *Indian Express* (ND) of 16-6-92 under the caption 'AI pilot 'hijacks' plane for personal use' wherein it has been stated that a pilot of AI flew an empty plane from Rome to New Delhi instead of Bombay and his family travelled in it;

(b) whether any action has been taken against the pilot; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if no action has been taken, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A charge-sheet has been issued to the Commander of the flight and an enquiry committee has been set up to investigate this incident.

Discontinuation of air link to Vijayawada

459. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the air connection to Vijayawada has been discontinued; if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): Air link to Vijayawada has been suspended from 14th May, 1992 due to capacity constraints.

More aircraft for Indian Airlines

460. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether more aircraft have been acquired by Indian Airlines to meet the need of domestic traffic; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b)